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SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE: UK CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN TRUST FUND FOR
ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

REF: SECSTATE 60286

¶1. (SBU) Zimbabwe Team Leader Ben Llewellyn-Jones said June 5 the UK plans to contribute GBP 100,000 (approx. 200,000 USD) to the UN Trust Fund for Electoral Assistance and is likely to finalize the letter of commitment today (June 5). HMG had initially intended to contribute GBP 200,000, but upon learning that the South African Development Community (SADC) Secretariat will not be accepting foreign contributions decided to reduce the UK's trust fund contribution. Llewellyn-Jones understands that the African Union (AU) will accept trust fund money, but has not yet officially made the request for support.

¶2. (SBU) The UK also has an additional GBP 500,000 to 700,000 (approx. 1 million to 1.4 million USD) to support the Zimbabwe elections. At present, it plans to do that discretely through direct bilateral support to SADC member states. HMG is currently finalizing an arrangement with Botswana.

¶3. (SBU) Llewellyn-Jones said HMG is lobbying other Europeans states, like Holland, to contribute to the UN Trust Fund. He understands that the European Commission will provide support directly to the AU, once an official request has been made.

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